

August, 2020

The Good News

Christ Episcopal Church

Keeping our Faith Alive



We have been having in-person service now for six weeks for the 7:30am service and four weeks for the 9:00am service with half of the 9:00am services being outside. The 9:00am service is also a combination of in-person and Zoom services. We are fortunate that our Church is so large, at 25% capacity it we can have a maximum of 75 parishioners providing that they keep the six foot social

distancing between family units. The Church also has many doors and windows that aid in bring in fresh air. Having a Zoom option for the 9:00am service is very important in that it brings a safe alternative to the in-person service. It also allows people that are out of town or sick to attend. For the August 2nd services we had 11 parishioners at the 7:30am service and 19 parishioner at the 9:00am service. We also had 25 screens representing 35 people at the 9:00am service for a total 65 parishioners for both services. It amazes me we can have people at Church and at home worshipping together. John Moore Editor



Seeking ✚ Serving ✚ Sharing Chris



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Patience, A virtue For Everyday's Life

Jean de La Fontaine, a French fabulist and one of the most widely read French poets of the 17th century, ended his famous fable *The Lion and the Rat* like this: "Patience and time are more than strength or rage." As one church, a community of faith, the lesson of this fable can apply in our daily life, especially in this time of social distance. Also, the moral lines of his poems can help us to discover that patience, in our daily life, is not a weakness, but a virtue.

As a virtue of daily life, without it, our relationships between community, family, and work become increasingly tense sooner or later. Especially when we face collisions or conflicts in the journey, the absence of patience in our daily life can result in the impossibility to live the Christian life to the end. This can apply especially for us, a church that comes from going through a long period of transition, hit by the unexpected COVID-19, it is necessary to grow in that school of mutual acceptance and daily prayer. When you practice patience in daily life, you will face challenges, to overcome the challenges, it depends on your faith, condition, and the context in which you find yourselves. The virtue of patience is not just a necessary quality of daily love for our loved ones and all others with whom we must live and work. It is also a dimension of our faith and our hope through all the events of life and history. James in his letter invites us to look at the farmer, like the one who knows what to expect. He says: "Be patient, brothers and sister, until the coming of the Lord. Look at the farmer: he patiently waits for the precious fruit of the land until he receives the autumn and spring rains. Be patient also, strengthen your hearts" (James 5, 7-8).

As a small and fragile community in the events of history, I want to remind you, for the first Christians, patience was linked to perseverance in the faith during the persecutions and difficulties to which they were exposed. It is the same for us today. Thus, we can learn from them, to speak of patience is also always to speak of trial, of suffering through which we are called to pass on our way. Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans involves us in a dynamic that takes us and takes us far. In this dynamic, patience is an unavoidable passage: Brothers and sisters, "Tribulation produces patience, patience a proven virtue and the proven virtue hope. Hope then does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5: 3-5). Be patient to one another, this unexpected pandemic brings us stress, fear, impatience, and it distances us. Living distance to one another, we live in fear, uncertainty, it creates panic. We become impatient to one another, remember impatience produces division, patience produces unity, acceptance. Unity and acceptance come from God. Patience is a gift from God, it is an invitation to our daily life. This invitation to patience made by Christ in the teaching always goes hand in hand with an urgent call to conversion.

Father Jean +

Words From our Music Director

As I reflect on all the changes we have made in the service including the sound system, Zoom Services, and coordination of in-person services, I am grateful to everyone who has stuck with us through the process. There are so many ways that we have made music happen. I give thanks to all the children and teens that helped make the posters for our Jacob's Ladder performance in July. This includes Annalise

and Solange Beniste, Bradley and Alan Brown, and Iszie Winston and Sarah Smith. We had a fun time making the posters and I hope everyone in the service enjoyed them.

I will alternate between Zoom and live music for August as we go between outdoor and indoor services.

As always, contact me if you have any music preferences for the service.

Lisa

Christ Church Vestry Meeting minutes

Monday July 20, 2020

Matt called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

Fr. Jean opened with a devotion and discussion. The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Cindy took attendance: Fr Jen Beniste, Rector, Matt Nordigian, Senior Warden, Sandy Dalgaard, Junior Warden, Don Craig, Treasurer, Cindy Tippet, Clerk of the Vestry, Walter Smith, Jeff Tippet, Greg Thompson, Al Nelson, Ben Hale, Rosemary Hanson, Assistant Treasurer. A quorum was confirmed. John Moore, Building Manager, and Hendris Greiner were not in attendance. This meeting was held in-person and on Zoom.

The agenda for tonight's meeting was approved.

The minutes from June 28th were approved.

Junior Warden's Report:

Sandy reports the old ramp on the east side of the church building is in poor repair. The ramp appears to be dangerous and should be removed. Jeff will talk to Mark Dalgaard come up with recommendations.

Sandy also asked if the bells can be fixed. The system is broken and use to ring the bells automatically, a nice tradition in Waukegan. She believes Jim Grisham may have worked on the system in the past.

Sandy suggested an AED be placed in the building. We need to work with a physician or possibly the fire department to obtain an AED. Cindy has the old cabinet as the AED we had was obsolete and could not be updated, the old cabinet is still useful but was going to be thrown away, so Cindy took it, and still has it.

Sandy also suggested finding an assistant for John Moore. The job is large one and we should have multiple people who know how our systems work, who we use for repairs etc.

Building & Grounds Report:

John Moore did not submit a report, but Matt knows he is working on the sound system. John had requested more information and quotes. Lisa's son Luis has been helping and may give us a quote also. We do know the speakers in the rear of the church do not work because they were never wired. More information to follow.

Treasurer's Report:

Don and Rosemary have met with Debbie Williams to facilitate the transition to the financial office.

Discussion was held on authorized signers on the bank accounts. Signatures on the accounts need to be changed due to the transitions in the Treasurer's and Warden's positions.

It was motioned and approved to remove Debbie Williams, Ben Martindale, and John Moore and add Don Craig and Sandy Dalgaard. Al Nelson and Jerry Gibbs will remain on the account. Motion passed unanimously.

Internet access is not secure since we changed our phone system. We are receiving our internet service from Waukegan 2 College and Don suggested this be changed as soon as possible. Don was asked to get the internet secured and he responded he is not a technology person and perhaps we need a group of people

who are tech savvy to help with the situation. No known persons with these skills were known so it was tabled for now.

Don wants to review the tenant agreements to make sure we are getting the best value for our rentals. A question of why we are paying the water bills for the tenants was raised by Don. Cindy responded that she has always paid them and thought that had been a part of their agreements. Greg offered that maybe because of 323 West Street, when the house was converted to a duplex the water could not be separated, this may not be the case now. Greg also offered a few years ago, the management company did report we are on the low end of the range for rentals in this area.

Don also questioned how we get Mother Rachel off the QuickBooks account; this needs to be addressed. Don expressed concerns over unpaid invoices in the treasurer's office. He believes many of them are overdue. Cindy responded by asking Don if he had received her response to his email responding to his concerns, he stated he had not. The blue folder in the Treasurer's mail slot is old and is not used by the bookkeeper; it was an old system and needs to be cleared. Debbie Williams is working with Rosemary and will write more checks. The other bills in the office, the property taxes are not due until September they should be processed in August.

Matt reports the in-person services have resumed with adaptations. Sandy said the 7:30 service seems to be going fine. The 9:00 in-person service was held last Sunday and is a work in progress. It is also being broadcast on Zoom. Walter reported it was difficult to hear and had several bugs to be worked out, but it is a valuable service for those unable to attend. Walter also had concerns over the contact with the Eucharist, again this is a work in progress, and we are learning as we go.

The Thursday Meditation Service had a small cliché; we need visitors to turn their mics off when visiting or the program changes the view to where they are.

Rector's Report:

Fr Jean stressed the need for the internet to be secure and available. In these times it is essential people can contact and visit us through the internet.

Fr Jean supplied the Vestry with a job description for the office position. He hopes to have 2 part time people in place soon. He suggests Monica would oversee Office Operations and work opposite possibly Mary Neely who would be available to answer phones, mail, email etc.

Fr asked all vestry members to complete the Safe Church training on the diocese website as soon as possible. It is good for 3 years and is completed online.

Fr also reported he is sending a letter to Marta's lawyer asking her to remove her belongings within 15 days, she or her lawyer will be the only persons her belongings will be released to. Marta or her lawyer will be required to sign that she has received her property/checks etc.

An executive session was held to discuss Fr. Jean's housing allowance. Don Craig had been asked to contact the diocese and get a clear understanding of this process. Don was unable to hear us due to issues with the Zoom volume, but reported the diocese said his request was within the guidelines of the diocese. A motion to accept the housing allowance agreement was made and passed. Unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday August 10th at 7:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Matt reports we will try to schedule the meetings on the second Monday of the month. We will be looking into better audio options for those using Zoom.

Al closed with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Tippet, Clerk of the Vestry

The History of Waukegan

The Wednesday Men's Group (ChristCare) has resumed meeting--outside, distanced, masks required. During last week's meeting one of our conclusions went more or less like this: The hardest part of trying to be a good citizen and a good Christian during the Pandemic is the lack of socialization. Most of the activities that make us functioning social animals have disappeared--victims of the real necessity to "bend the curve." Gatherings, hugs, hand shaking--all are dangerous for the general welfare of all. We just don't get together anymore. We all agreed that the sacrifices are necessary and there will be rewards for patience and perseverance. These have always been Christian virtues. But for some of us, it is becoming a test of faith. Pray, pay, and obey?

My mother passed away in 2007, but before she left I had opportunities to get a deeper understanding of her life story. On the days when it was my turn to take care of her, I tried to get her to talk about her memories, how she felt during the Depression, World War II, the Boom, and any number of personal episodes. One time I asked her what religion was like in Waukegan during the WWII. She remembered people went to church a lot, "People really needed religion then...." A clear memory was VJ Day: A large ecumenical service took place on that weekday at the First Presbyterian Church downtown. The War was over....

My grandmother was living with us then, and she took my older sisters and my cousins to the celebration. Baby Billy, six-months old, stayed home with Mom.

By definition apocalyptic ordeals are horrible. Mom planted a victory garden. We wear masks, stay apart, and wait. If we can keep our faith strong, our VJ day will come and we will all be together again!

Bill Weber

Message from Anne Smith, Candidate to the Holy Order of Deacons

In 2018, when I spend almost nine months with the people of Christ Church Waukegan, I was a postulant in field training. When asked what "postulant meant," I would reply that I was a "DIT, Deacon in Training." I would explain that I was in a time of discernment and formation. And, when I returned this March, I was still a postulant. But, this time, I was awaiting the interviews for being granted candidacy. On June 17, I was granted candidacy. What's the difference? When I was granted postulancy in 2017, the bishop and his team declared that I seemed suitable for training for and discerning over my call to ordination. When I was granted candidacy, the bishop and his team declared that I am ready for ordination. So now I wait for ordination. I do not have a date, and I have to trust that it will be "soon."

What difference does it make to this community of Christ Church Waukegan that I will serve here? Perhaps, a better question is, how does a deacon enrich the life of a parish? In the Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer, it states that the ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons. The ministry of each order is described (p. 855-866.) The description of the ministry of each order starts with "to represent Christ and his Church." All members of the Church, by baptism, are called "to represent Christ and his Church." Lay persons are called to bear witness and carry on Christ's work of reconciliation to the world, "according to the gifts given them." A deacon is called to represent Christ and his Church, "particularly as a servant to those in need." As your deacon, at Christ Church Waukegan, I represent Christ, the servant. As your deacon I commit, under the direction of our rector, Fr. Jean, to serve the needs of this congregation as best I can. I will assist at liturgies and with liturgical ministers. There will be other ways that will arise where I will be your servant. I also commit to helping Christ Church Waukegan as a servant parish.

Look on our website, newsletter, or Sunday program. You will see Seeking, Serving, Sharing Christ. In following my call to represent Christ as servant, I will look for ways to support our congregation in serving Christ. In

particular, I will look for ways to encourage and support you in how you bring Christ to the world as servants. The word deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonia*, which means service. Part of my call is to strengthen Christ Church Waukegan as a diaconal parish. This is the reason that, when a deacon is present at a liturgy, they dismiss the congregation. At the end of our Sunday service, you hear that the service has ended, and you are told to go forth; you are dismissed, you are told to leave. There are a few dismissals to choose. My favorite is “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” The final instructions of our Eucharistic Liturgy is to leave. You have been forgiven, fed, and blessed. Then you are called to go and serve. As your future deacon, I commit to supporting you as Christ, the servant.

CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, *Bishop*

The Rev. Jean C. Beniste, *Rector*

Lisa Graves, *Music Director*



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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